



Coconino County Sheriff's Office

Bill Pribil, Sheriff

MEDIA RELEASE

**For Immediate Release
Date: June 7, 2010**

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Coconino County Sheriff's Deputies and Search and Rescue Volunteers Respond to Five Reports of Lost or Injured Victim's During the Weekend

Flagstaff, AZ – Coconino County Sheriff's Deputies and Coconino County Search and Rescue Volunteers were very busy responding to reports of lost or injured victims during the weekend of June 4, 2010 through June 7, 2010.

On Saturday June 5, 2010 at approximately 4:38 p.m. the Coconino County Sheriff's Office received the report of a 19 year-old man from Peoria Arizona who was lost and stranded. According to the victim who spoke with dispatch and responding personnel via his cell phone, he was hiking on Humphries Trail in the area of the Arizona Snow Bowl. The victim was descending the mountain and believed he was half way down the trail when he began to feel weak and could not catch his breath. Although the hiker believed he was not experiencing any medical problems he said he could not hike the rest of the way without assistance. Two Good Samaritans who were hiking in the area found the victim and remained with him to provide assistance. One of the two individuals spoke with responding personnel who provided information on how to care for the victim. Eventually they were able to get the victim to resume walking on the trail at which time they were met by Coconino County Sheriffs Search and Rescue Personnel who walked the victim to a waiting Guardian Medical Ground Transport Unit in the parking lot of the Agassiz Lodge of the Arizona Snow Bowl. Guardian Medical Personnel performed a field evaluation however the victim declined medical transportation. This incident was resolved at 8:34 p.m.

On Saturday June 5, 2010 at about 9:35 p.m. a fifteen year-old boy called the Coconino County Sheriff's Office (via 911) on his cell phone to report that he and another 15 year-old male were attending a social gathering at Fort Tut Hill when they left the campground area just before dark to go on a hike. The caller believed they were north of Fort Tut Hill and were disoriented in the dark and lost. According to the caller the two lost hikers had one cell phone and one flashlight between the two of them however they did not have any water or food and were not prepared for an overnight stay in the wilderness. The caller described several trails, fence lines and even a paved road that he believed they crossed. While speaking to one of the victims over his cell phone a Coconino County Sheriff's Lieutenant determined the victims were probably walking west of Fort Tut Hill. Responding personnel established a perimeter around the area where the two were believed to be and used audible search methods to include vehicle horns, sirens and voices.



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Searchers located the two victims at 1:00 a.m. on Sunday in an unimproved wooded area about 1 mile south west of Fort Tut Hill. Both subjects were in good condition and did not require medical treatment or transport.

On June 5, 2010 at approximately 11:00 p.m. the Coconino County Sheriff's Office received a report of 5 Boy Scouts and two adult Boy Scouts Leaders from the Phoenix area who were hiking in West Fork Canyon which is located north of Sedona and south of Flagstaff. The hikers did not return to Phoenix Arizona at 5:00 p.m. on Saturday as they intended. A Coconino County Sheriff's Deputy who is assigned to the Sedona sub-station located a vehicle belonging to the members of the group that was parked in a lot at West Fork and left a note for the victims to call the Sheriff's Office in the event they returned. A Deputy located a second vehicle belonging to group members at the top of the West Fork Trail Head off of Woody Mountain Road and left a note on that vehicle as well. Deputies and Search and Rescue Personnel drove the area and checked camp sites. At about 2:00 a.m. the decision was made to initiate an intensive ground and air search at daylight. At about 5:30 a.m. all of the members of the overdue hiking party arrived at the vehicle that was parked off of Woody Mountain Road and called the Sheriff's Office after reading the note on their vehicle. All group members were in good condition and did not require medical treatment or medical transport.

On Sunday, June 6, 2010 at approximately 1:44 p.m. an adult male from Phoenix Arizona called the Sheriff's Office on his cell phone to report he was hiking on the San Francisco Peaks on Humphries Trail. According to the caller he began his hike on Sunday at about 10:20 a.m. He left the trail hiked for an hour and reached an area where there was still some snow on the ground. The victim attempted to return to Humphries Trail without success and became disoriented and lost. Members of the Coconino County Sheriff's Search and Rescue Unit were dispatched to the area. Several other hikers who were in the area located the victim and escorted him 100 yards from his current position back to Humphries Trail and subsequently walked him to his vehicle. Search personnel met with the victim interviewed him and determined that he was not in need of medical treatment or transport. Agencies that were involved in this response included the Coconino County Sheriff's Office, the Coconino County Sheriff's Search and Rescue Unit, and the Arizona Department of Public Safety Air Rescue Division.

On Monday, June 07, 2010 at about 11:41 a.m. the Coconino County Sheriff's Office received a phone call from an individual who was riding motorcycles with 2 other motorcycle enthusiasts on Forest Service Road 418 located off of Highway 180 in the area of Hart Prairie. According to the caller one of the group members was a 67 year-old male from Carson City Nevada who rode up a significant incline when he lost control of his motorcycle. According to the caller the subsequent one vehicle collision resulted in a serious injury to one of the victim's elbows. One of the motorcycle riders remained with the victim and the caller rode to a residence where he used the telephone. He arranged to meet responding Deputies at Highway 180 and directed them to the victim's location. Coconino County Sheriff's Deputies, Guardian Medical Transport Personnel and Search and Rescue Volunteers arrived at the victim's location at 1:35 p.m. Search and Rescue members and Guardian Personnel carried the victim approximately 1 mile to a waiting ambulance at which point he was transported to Flagstaff Medical Center for treatment.

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